



Docket No.: 213930US0PCT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/926,163
Applicants: Takashi SHIBATA, et al.
Filing Date: December 21, 2001
For: SORBITOL DEHYDROGENASE, GENE ENCODING
THE SAME AND USE THEREOF
Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: Y.D. PAK

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response to Requirement for Restriction (4 pp.); International Preliminary Examination Report (4 pp.)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE



IN RE APPLICATION OF

AKASHI SHIBATA, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 09/926,163

FILED: DECEMBER 21, 2001

FOR: SORBITOL DEHYDROGENASE,
GENE ENCODING THE SAME AND
USE THEREOF

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: EXAMINER: PAK, Y.

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

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SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, Applicants elect, with
traverse, Group I, Claims 1-5 and 10, drawn to a sorbitol dehydrogenase.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-5 and 10, drawn to a sorbitol dehydrogenase;

Group II: Claims 6-9, 11-18, and 23-40, drawn to DNA encoding a sorbitol
dehydrogenase, vector comprising said DNA, transformant comprising
said DNA and a method of producing the sorbitol dehydrogenase;

Group III: Claims 19 and 41-42, drawn to a method of producing L-sorbose;

Group IV: Claims 20-21 and 43-46, drawn to a method of producing 2-keto-L-
gluconic acid; and

Group V: Claims 22 and 47-48, drawn to a method of producing L-ascorbic acid.